



Patent

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Robert Francis Squibbs) Re: Information Disclosure
Serial No.: 10/020,324) Statement
Filed: December 11, 2001) Group: 2641
For: "DEVICE GROUP DISCOVERY METHOD)
AND APPARATUS") Examiner: not yet assigned
) Our Ref: B-4427 619388-5
) Date: January 26, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria VA, 22313-1450

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Sir:

Technology Center 2600

In accordance with the Applicant's duty to disclose information which may be material to the examination of this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that the Examiner consider on the merits the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified) before issuing the first Office Action on the merits. We are enclosing herewith a copy of each document listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified).

It should be noted that the above-identified application may be related by subject matter to the following U.S. Application(s): 10/020,325, filed December 11, 2001; and 10/017,226, filed December 11, 2001 (issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,662,137 on December 9, 2003). Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.56(a) and M.P.E.P. 2004, paragraph 9, the applicant brings these co-pending applications to the attention of the Examiner. The Examiner should consider this information during the prosecution of the above-identified application. However, citation of these applications does not constitute an admission that the claims of the present application are substantially similar or similar to those of the applications listed above.

The documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified) include those cited in the European Search Report for a related European Patent Application No. EP 01310397. A copy of the Search

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Report (2 pages) is enclosed herewith.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 C.F.R. 1.97(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists.

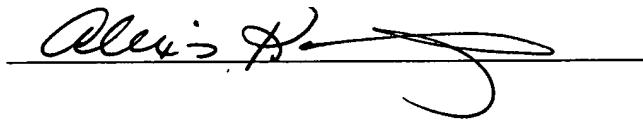
The Applicant believes that this IDS is being submitted before the issuance of a first Office Action on the merits and before the issuance of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance. Therefore, no official fees should be due; and this IDS should be considered on the merits. If this IDS is being submitted after the issuance of the first Office Action on the merits and before the issuance of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, please contact the undersigned to authorize a payment of \$180.00 (or any other required amount), which is the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c), if the Examiner believes that such a fee is due in order for this IDS to be considered on the merits.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner. (Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 25.)

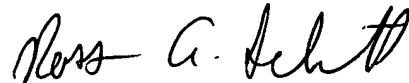
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The person making this statement is the practitioner who signs below on the basis of information supplied by an individual associated with the filing and prosecution of this application (37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c)) and on the basis of information in the practitioner's file.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to the "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450", on January 26, 2004 by Alexis Karriker.



Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: Form PTO-1449 (modified) (1 page)
Copy of Search Report for EP 01310397 (2 pages)
Copy of documents listed on Form PTO-1449 (modified)



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Form PTO-1449 (Modified)	ATTY DOCKET NO. B-4427 619388-5	U.S. SERIAL NO. 10/020,324
LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS STATEMENT	APPLICANT(S) Robert Francis Squibbs	
	FILING DATE December 11, 2001	GROUP 2641

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	ISSUE DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE or 102(e) DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	5,359,323	10/1994	Michel	340	825.54	
	6,662,137	12/2003	Squibbs	702	159	
	10/020,325		Squibbs			12/11/2001

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	PUBLICATION DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	Matsuo, N., et al., "Speaker Position Detection System Using Audio-Visual Information," FUJITSU Sci. Tech. J., Vol. 35, No. 2, pp. 212-220 (December 1999).
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EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.